

Stream Line

City of Indianapolis / Department of Public Works / Clean Stream Program

Winter 2003-04 | Issue 2

Inside This Issue

- 2 New DPW Director Named
- 2 Honorary Clean Stream Team members recognized
- 3 Tank Project Benefits White River

Statement Of Purpose

The Indianapolis Clean Stream Team is overseeing many projects to keep raw sewage out of our waterways and improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods. *Stream Line* is published quarterly to keep you informed about the city's progress in reducing raw sewage overflows and restoring the health of our streams.

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STREAM IMPROVEMENTS BENEFIT PLEASANT RUN

Inflatable dam will help reduce overflows

A project underway near Howe Middle School will keep millions of gallons of raw sewage out of an eastside stream.

An inflatable rubber dam within the sewer system will prevent thousands of gallons of raw sewage and polluted stormwater from spilling into Pleasant Run with each rainfall. Currently, about 17 million gallons overflow each year from this location.

As in many cities around the country, Indianapolis' sewer system is antiquated and can no longer handle the amount of sewage and rainwater that flows through it. As little as a quarter inch of rain can cause raw sewage to spill into portions of Pleasant Run, White River, Fall Creek, Pogues Run and other area waterways.

"Raw sewage in our streams is a health hazard, smells and looks disgusting, hurts our environment and harms the quality of life in our neighborhoods," said Barbara A. Lawrence, Director of the Department of Public Works (DPW).

The inflatable dam, similar to a large balloon, is being placed inside the sewer to trap contaminated water that would otherwise overflow into Pleasant Run.

When storm runoff enters the sewers, the dam will inflate to block the overflow pipe and



Consultants from Triad Engineering Inc. prepare to enter the sewer system near Howe Middle School to verify conditions prior to completing design work on an inflatable dam. They are (left to right) Zig Resiak, John Zant and Rob Suttero.

direct the wastewater to the city's treatment plants. After the storm, when the flows in the sewer system recede, the dam will deflate.

Inflatable dams help save money by using existing sewer lines to contain and reduce raw sewage overflows. Electronic sensors will activate the dam as needed and will eventually send data to a centralized computer, allowing remote and real-time control of flows within the sewer.

"This system allows us to actively control the amount of wastewater going into any part (see "Pleasant Run" page 4)



Mayor Bart Peterson presents a Team WET Schools certificate to John Marshall Middle School Principal Jamyce Banks.

Teachers Bring Water Lessons into Classroom

Teachers at three Indianapolis Public Schools campuses have learned how to conduct an urban waterway checkup and how to mix up a recipe for clean water – lessons they are taking to their classrooms through the Team WET schools program. WET stands for Water Education for Teachers.

Teachers at John Marshall, Harshman and McFarland middle schools were trained at the beginning of the 2003-04 school year to bring urban water issues into all kinds of classroom activities.

The urban waterway checkup taught educators about the different environments through which an urban stream travels, and the effects (see "Teachers" page 4)

Find us on the Web at: www.indycleanstreams.org

New Director Takes the Helm at DPW



James Garrard

The Department of Public Works (DPW) welcomed James Garrard as its new director in January. Garrard, who previously served as administrator of the city's Animal Care and Control Division, started his new position January 12.

Garrard takes over for Barbara Lawrence, who was appointed city controller by Mayor Bart Peterson and will now manage the city's budget and finances. Ms. Lawrence had served as DPW director since January 2002.

Garrard will manage a 595-person department that builds and maintains the city's sewer, wastewater treatment and stormwater systems. DPW employees also maintain city streets, levees and traffic systems; handle trash collection and disposal; and inspect air, land and water for environmental health and safety.

Under Garrard's leadership, DPW will continue to work with state and federal regulatory agencies on a plan to reduce raw sewage overflows into our streams and waterways. The plan, worth at least \$1 billion, will represent the single largest investment in clean water in the city's history.

Garrard also will oversee progress on numerous projects that are underway to start cleaning our streams and protecting public health.

Garrard is credited with a turnaround in the city's Animal Care and Control Division. During his tenure, the division dramatically increased outreach and education efforts and worked with volunteer groups and local media to raise awareness of the shelter and animal-related issues. A 38-year-old attorney, Garrard previously served as special counsel in the Office of Corporation Counsel.

"I am excited about working with the many constituents DPW serves to continue to advance our city as a safe and clean place for everyone," said Garrard.

Ms. Lawrence earned high marks for her management of DPW and will stay involved in helping the department finance water quality improvement projects. In recognition of her leadership, she was named an honorary member of the Clean Stream Team in December.

"I am proud to have headed a department with such a committed and hard-working group of employees," said Lawrence. "We faced several unusual natural events during my administration such as last year's Labor Day flooding, but the DPW staff always met the challenges and performed admirably."

Organizations, Councilwoman Honored for Environmental Leadership

The Indianapolis Department of Public Works honored three organizations and a retiring City-County councilwoman in 2003 for their leadership on water quality issues.

Former City-County Councillor Beulah Coughenour received honorary membership in the Indianapolis Clean Stream Team on Dec. 3. Among many accomplishments during her 28 years on the council, she spearheaded creation of a stormwater utility to establish dedicated funding for drainage and flood control projects in Marion County. She did not seek re-election in 2003.



Beulah Coughenour

On Oct. 9, the department presented Eli Lilly and Company, the Rotary Club of Indianapolis, and the Center for Earth and Environmental Science at Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis (IUPUI) honorary team membership. Together, they have created an environmental restoration project that planted six acres of trees along the White River just west of the IUPUI campus.

"All along we've known improving water quality would be a team effort," said Department of Public Works Director Barbara A. Lawrence. "City government cannot do it alone. These awards recognize and encourage voluntary community efforts to protect and restore our streams."

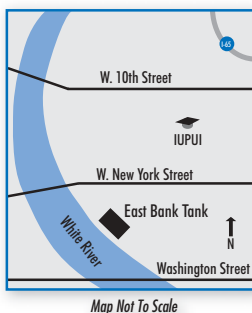
If you know someone deserving of the Clean Stream Team award, visit www.indycleanstreams.org to submit a nomination form.



Three community partners were recognized for their work in restoring eight acres along the White River. Pictured (left to right) are honorees Todd Lugar, Rotary Club of Indianapolis; John Wilkins, Eli Lilly and Company; Barbara Lawrence, DPW director; and honoree Dr. Lenore Tedesco, IUPUI.

Tank Project Benefits White River

Along the east bank of White River near downtown, the Department of Public Works is building a 3-million-gallon underground storage tank that will significantly reduce raw sewage overflows. The concrete tank is being built just south of the New York Street bridge and west of the Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis campus.



Tank benefits

The tank will reduce one of the city's largest sources of raw sewage overflow, known as CSO 039. Between July and December 2001, overflows occurred 29 times at this location. With the storage tank in place, five overflows would have occurred.

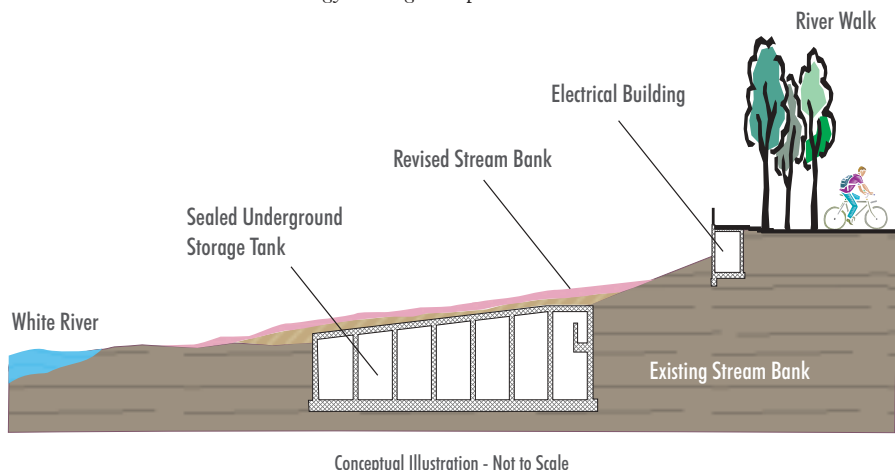
Construction details

Donohue & Associates, Inc., designed the \$5.84 million tank so it can be expanded later to control even more overflows, if necessary. Thieneman Construction, Inc., is managing the construction project, which is expected to be complete by Spring 2005. Inspection services are being performed by Malcolm-Pirnie, Inc.



What to expect

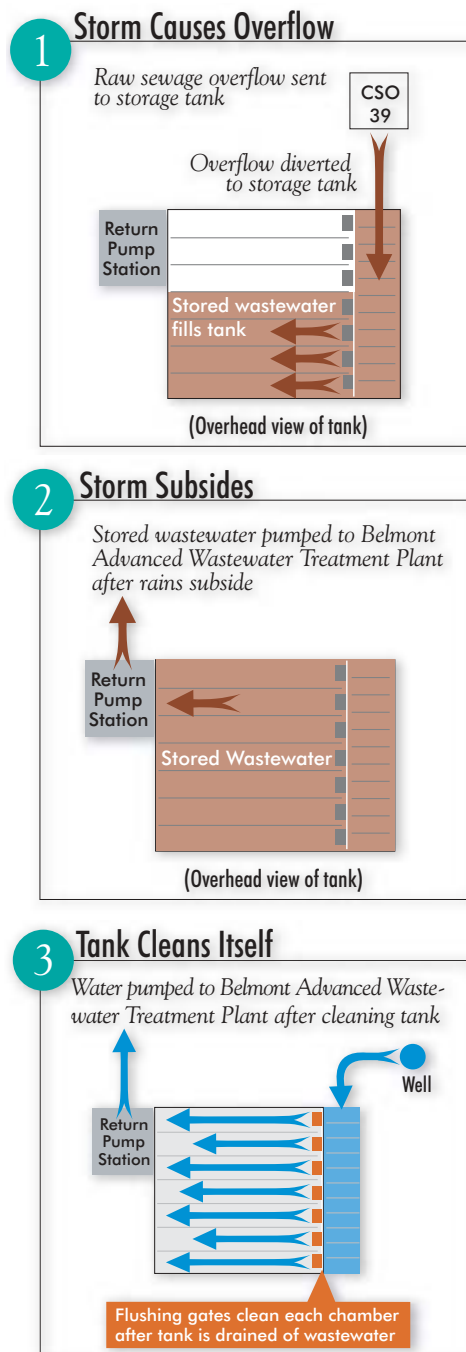
When complete, landscaping will conceal the tank and its control structures so visitors to White River State Park will notice only that water quality has improved – and not the unseen technology making it all possible.



How the tank will work

When rains fall, a combination of raw sewage and stormwater that would otherwise overflow into the river will instead flow into the storage tank and its series of parallel chambers. As one chamber fills up, the sewage-stormwater mixture will flow into and fill up the next chamber, and so on, until all the chambers are full. When rains subside, the tank will pump the stored wastewater back into the sewer system for treatment at the Belmont Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant.

When the wastewater has drained away, flushing gates will release water to clean out each chamber of the storage tank.



Pleasant Run (continued from page 1)

of the sewer system,” said Carlton Ray, DPW’s Administrator of Environmental Engineering. “We will now be able to maximize the amount of wastewater inside the sewer system and minimize overflows into the streams.”

Construction is expected to be complete by early spring.

The \$500,000 project near Washington and Emerson streets also will help reduce raw sewage flowing through Christian Park and Garfield Park after a rainfall. It is part of a \$5.6 million effort to install automated sewage control technologies in locations throughout the city, including:

- 1) Pleasant Run at Ellenberger Park
- 2) Pagues Run at Brookside Park
- 3) White River at 10th Street
- 4) McCarty and Meikel streets near the White River
- 5) West Street near the White River.

The city completed four other similar projects last year along Fall Creek.

Teachers (continued from page 1)

various land uses have on water quality. While mixing a recipe for clean water, teachers learned how to make non-toxic, alternative cleaners and to test them against traditional cleaners. Teachers also explored water-related sayings from different cultures to study literal and figurative uses of language and what you can learn about cultures from their sayings.

“I gained plenty of ideas for my classroom,” one teacher said following the training.

Another was pleased “that all the activities are being aligned with state standards so that I can use WET in the City in my standards-based classroom.” The teachers participating in the program teach in a variety of disciplines, including science, language arts, special education and mathematics.

Mayor Bart Peterson kicked off the Indianapolis Team WET Schools program on September 29, 2003, when he designated John Marshall Middle School as the first Indianapolis Team WET School. The Indianapolis Clean Stream Team and Department of Public Works sponsor the Team WET Schools program. Volunteers from DPW and the team will provide expertise in local water issues to the teachers throughout the school year.



Mayor Bart Peterson, Indianapolis Public Schools Board Vice President Dr. Mary Busch (second from right), and John Marshall Principal Jamyce Banks (far left) are joined by students at the September 29 designation ceremony.

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CLEAN STREAM TEAM

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